

21-CR-082 (ADC)
USA v. Garcia-Jimenez et al

Hearing set for 3:30 PM Hearing start 3:30 PM Hearing ended 3:43 PM

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS:

HONORABLE AIDA DELGADO COLON, U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

COURTROOM DEPUTY: Cristina Dones Taylor
Court Reporter: Amy Walker

Date: March 29, 2022
Case: 21-cr-082 (ADC)

Attorneys:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AUSA Myriam Fernández

v.

(1) Eugenio Garcia-Jimenez
(2) Stephen Kirkland
(3) Steve Minger
(4) Alejandro Riera-Fernandez
(5) Joseph Kirkland
(6) Arnaldo J. Irizarry-Irizarry
(7) Roberto Mejill-Tellado

AFPD Carlos A. Vázquez
Laura Maldonado, Esq. substituted by Giovanni Canino
Giovanni Canino, Esq.
Diego Alcalá, Esq.
Benito I. Rodríguez, Esq.
Juan E. Alvarez, Esq.
Carlos J. Andreu, Esq.

Case called for Pretrial Conference:

The Government informed the Court there is no pending discovery and plea offers have been tendered. Parties are engaged in plea negotiations; the Government is open to consider counteroffers. The Government estimates 3 weeks of trial, approximately 30 witnesses (25 fact witnesses, 1 or 2 experts and bank record custodians). Plea offers available until 45 days prior to trial.

The parties informed the following as to each defendant:

Eugenio Garcia-Jimenez (1): Discovery has been reviewed with the defendant. A counteroffer will be sent to the Government. Additional time was requested.

Stephen Kirkland (2): The defendant has filed a COP motion. Hearing will be set for 5/13/2022. Motions at dockets [146] and [147] are granted.

Steve Minger (3): Plea negotiations are ongoing. A counteroffer will be tendered to the Government. Parties are close to reaching an agreement.

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Alejandro Riera-Fernandez (4): Plea negotiations are ongoing. A counteroffer has been tendered to the Government. A respond is due by 4/01/2022.

Joseph Kirkland (5): Defense counsel stated that since a joint defense is now no longer feasible, they will make a determination on how they will move forward.

Arnaldo J. Irizarry-Irizarry (6): Defense counsel will meet with the Government within 10 days and will inform the Court as to how they will proceed.

Roberto Mejill-Tellado (7): Parties held a meeting 2 weeks ago. A final offer was received, and it is being considered. Parties are close to reaching an agreement.

After having heard the parties, the Court set the following settings and deadlines:

- 1- Parties are granted until 4/29/2023² to conclude plea negotiations.
- 2- Change of Plea motions due by 5/13/2022.
- 3- Possible Jury Trial setting: 7/11/2022 to 7/29/2022, alternate date 9/5/2022 to 9/30/2022. The same will be set on the next pretrial conference.

Pretrial conference is set for May 17, 2022, at 1:00 PM via VTC.

S/ Cristina Dones-Taylor
Courtroom Deputy Clerk for
U.S. District Judge Aida M. Delgado Colón